

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT O 00032 081724Z

61

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 AGR-05 IO-10

OIC-02 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 HEW-02 LAB-04 SIL-01

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /141 W
----- 094138

R 081625Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7239

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ECIN ENRG TD XL

SUBJECT: OIL AND FOOD CONFERENCE OPENS IN TRINIDAD

REF: POS 1805, JULY 27, 1974

SUMMARY:

AN OIL AND FOOD CONFERENCE CALLED AND OPENED BY DR. ERIC WILLIAMS, PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, CONVENED AT THE CHAGUARAMAS CONVENTION CENTER ON JANUARY 6. INVITED PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL FIRMS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN INVESTING IN TRINIDAD'S EXPANDED ENERGY, FERTILIZER AND PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTION AS WELL AS UN AGENCIES, VARIOUS GOTT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FOOD TRADE, PRODUCTION AND LABOR GROUPS. THE FOUR-DAY PROGRAM IS TO COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT O 00032 081724Z

TO EXAMINE THE USE OF INCREASED OIL REVENUES FOR EXPANDING

FOOD PRODUCTION. A SECOND SIMILAR CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRINIDAD'S PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES. WHILE THE BULK OF BACKGROUND MATERIALS AND AGENDA ITEMS CENTERED ON TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE PLANNING WAS TO INCLUDE SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPANDED FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE PERSONAL INVITATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL FIRMS ATTENDED THE JANUARY 6 OPENING OF A CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD TO DISCUSS OIL AND FOOD. SPECIFICALLY THE DISCUSSIONS ARE HOPED TO RESULT IN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVT ABOUT HOW TO SHARE PROFITS FROM TRINIDAD'S OIL INDUSTRY CAN BEST BE CHANNELLED TOWARD DEVELOPING THE AGRICULTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SO THAT THE AREA CAN REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODS. FIRMS REPRESENTED WERE AMOCO, BEKER, TENNECO, MOBIL, KAISER AND W. R. GRACE OF THE UNITED STATES; HOECHST OF GERMANY; DAI NIPPON OF JAPAN AND THE THREE LOCALLY OPERATING OIL COMPANIES - TRINIDAD-TESORO, TRINTOC AND TEXACO. IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS GOVT MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS, OTHER INVITED ATTENDEES INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FAO, UNDP, AND PAHO, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, LOCAL FOOD PROCESSING FIRMS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS AND LABOR GROUPS. AS FAR AS COULD BE DETERMINED, THERE WERE NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES (PROBABLY NOT INVITED) NOT MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS (DEFINITELY NOT INVITED).

2. AFTER THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE BY ELDON WARNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AND WELCOMING REMARKS FROM MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, L.M. ROBINSON, PM ERIC WILLIAMS GAVE AN OPENING ADDRESS WHICH REPEATED HIS THEME THAT CARIBBEAN FOOD PRODUCTION HAS BEEN LIMITED BY THE FORMER COLONIAL POLICY OF DEVELOPING MONO-CROP AGRICULTURE FOR EXPORT OF SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND FORCING A DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOODS. HE SAID THAT SPIRALLYING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY COSTS AND THE PLIGHT OF WORLD-WIDE FOOD PRODUCTION-CONSUMPTION DISCUSSED AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME NOW HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT O 00032 081724Z

TO INCREASE ITS DOMESTIC PRODUCTION AND DEPEND LESS ON IMPORTS. DR. WILLIAMS PROMISED THAT RECOMMENDATIONS COMING OUT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD RECEIVE CABINET CONSIDERATION WITH THE GREATEST INTEREST AND MAXIMUM URGENCY.

3. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PM'S SPEECH AND PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA, THE PRESS AND ALL UNINVITED GUESTS WERE ASKED TO LEAVE. IT WAS

LATER REPORTED IN THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN THAT THE REASON GIVEN WAS BECAUSE QUOTE TECHNICAL TOPICS UNQUOTE WOULD BE DISCUSSED. THE GOTT PROMISED THAT PRESS BRIEFINGS WOULD BE HELD AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH DAY'S AGENDA. BACKGROUND PAPERS COMPILED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE COVERING DETAILS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE; DESCRIPTIONS OF CURRENT AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS; HISTORICAL SUMMARIES OF MARKETING PRACTICES; AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND CREDIT; AND CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR GOVERNMENT'S PLANS FOR EXPANDED FOOD PRODUCTION WERE PRESENTED TO DELEGATES TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND SOLICIT SUGGESTIONS.

4. COMMENT: AT THE ACP-EEC MEETING IN JAMAICA LAST JULY (REFTEL) WILLIAMS PROPOSED UNSPECIFIED PRODUCTION TARGETS FOR MEAT, MILK AND LIVESTOCK FEEDS BASED ON TRINIDAD'S INCREASED PRODUCTION AND AVAILABILITY OF FERTILIZERS TAILORED TO CARIBBEAN REQUIREMENTS. WHILE GUYANA, JAMAICA AND BARBADOS WERE QUICK TO AGREE AND SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO BARBADOS IN EARLY AUGUST TO FORM PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION OF CARICOM'S LESSER DEVELOPED MEMBERS, NOTHING FURTHER HAS BEEN HEARD OF THIS PLAN. WILLIAMS IS NOW ASKING THOSE INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN TRINIDAD'S ENERGY-BASED INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION TO GIVE HIM AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (AND A COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE PROPOSALS EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY THE GOTT) JOINTLY FORGED WITH TRINIDAD'S PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF OTHER CARICOM REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE BEEN TO EXCLUDE ANY FURTHER POTENTIAL WRANGLING FROM AN ALREADY DIVERSE GROUP. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRINIDAD ISLAND RICE GROWERS ASSOCIATION WALKED OUT OF THE FIRST DAY'S MEETING TO PROTEST CURRENT GOTT RICE PRODUCTION POLICIES.
RICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PORT O 00032 081724Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO00032
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750008-0058
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750169/aaaacisn.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 POS 1805, 75 JULY 27, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OIL AND FOOD CONFERENCE OPENS IN TRINIDAD
TAGS: EAGR, ECIN, ENRG, OCON, TD, XL, US, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006